

Australia 'Stingers' Mark Stamp Collecting Month



On September 23 Australia Post issued its annual Stamp Collecting Month (SCM) issue. For 2014, adventurer and wildlife warrior, Ben Southall, joined Australia Post in calling on stamp collectors of all ages to observe

“Things that Sting”.

Southall—the winner of the “Best Job in the World” and former “Caretaker of the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef” has spent much of his life helping to conserve wildlife living in their natural habitat, and is encouraging students across the nation to learn about and appreciate Australia’s unique and varied wildlife. The Things that Sting stamp issue features the European Wasp, Bull Ant, Tiger Snake, Reef Stonefish, Common Lionfish and the Bluespotted Fantail Ray.

Australia Post Philatelic Manager Michael Zsolt said he hopes this year’s stamp issue would inspire students to explore and learn more about Things that Sting. “It’s great to have a wildlife conservationist like Ben on board to help spread the important message of safety and respecting animals in their natural habitat,” Zsolt said.

Southall added, “I’ve always felt at home in the great outdoors and it’s no secret Australia has numerous insects and animals that can sting or bite as a form of defense. Sharing the environment with these creatures means you can sometimes be at the wrong place at the wrong time. That’s why it’s important to learn to identify potentially

dangerous insects and animals and take sensible precautions to avoid being stung or bitten. It’s a great thrill to team up with Australia Post and showcase a few of Australia’s spectacular wildlife creatures through Stamp Collecting Month.”

This year’s Things that Sting stamp issue is supported by an online education resource for teachers, parents and students. The website includes information and facts on each of the creatures featured, as well as lesson ideas and activities, animated stamp images and much more.

There is a range of collectibles associated with this stamp issue, including a Land and Sea stamp pack, Bull Ant postal and numismatic cover, two medallion covers and a board game stamp pack. Other products are a minisheet, first day cover, stamp pack, set of six maxicards, booklet of 20 x 70¢ self-adhesive stamps and six gutter strips of 10 x 70¢ stamps with designs.

For more information on Stamp Collecting Month and this year’s Things that Sting stamp issue, including educational activities, visit the SCM website: auspost.com.au/scm.

The Things that Sting stamps and associated products are available at [www.auspost.com.au/stamps](http://auspost.com.au/stamps) or contact Australia Stamp Agency in North America toll free (USA and Canada) on 1-800-443-4225 while stocks last.